

Message Text

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65/21

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /056 W

----- 121267

R 290720Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5905

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPAC

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CORRECTED COPY: E.O., TAGS AND SUBJECT OMITTED

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, RP

SUBJECT: SECRETARY ROMULO ADDRESS ON "EXTRA-TERRITORIALITY,
A THING OF THE PAST"

1. IN ADDRESS TO PHILIPPINE VETERANS LEGION JULY 28
SECRETARY OF FONAFFAIRS ROMULO DECLARED EXTRA-TERRITORIALITY
WAS A VESTIGE OF THE PAST AND MUST END. FIRST PORTION OF
ROMULO'S SPEECH WAS LEGALISTIC CONTRAST OF CONCEPTS OF
EXTERRITORIALITY AND EXTRA-TERRITORIALITY. ACCORDING
TO ROMULO PRINCIPAL DISTINCTION IS THAT STATES BEHAVE AS
EQUALS IN EX-TERRITORIALITY WHEREAS IN EXTRA-TERRITORIALITY
"A GREAT DEAL IS SUBTRACTED FROM THE SOVEREIGNTY OF ONE
OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONTRACT." ROMULO OFFERED HISTORIC
ACCOUNT OF DEVELOPMENT OF EXTRA-TERRITORIALITY AND
ANALYZED MODERN CONCEPTS WHICH ERODED ITS PRACTICE. DES-
PITE THE ELIMINATION OF EXTRA-TERRITORIALITY IN MOST
PARTS OF THE WORLD, ROMULO MAINTAINED IT STILL EXISTS
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"NOT ONLY IN OTHER COUNTRIES SUCH AS THE (SIC) PANAMA,

BUT RIGHT HERE IN THE PHILIPPINES."

2. ROMULO REVIEWED PECULIAR CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH DICTATED GOP ACCEPTANCE OF EXTRA-TERRITORIALITY ALONG LINES OF HIS ADDRESS TO BROADCASTERS JULY 16, MANILA 9809. HE QUOTED CLARO RECTO'S OBJECTIONS TO U.S. BASE PRESENCE IN PHILIPPINES AND MARCOS' RECENT SPEECH TO FINANCIAL TIMES GROUP (MANILA 9241) STRESSING THAT PRESIDENT'S THINKING IS IN CONSONANCE WITH FOREIGN POLICY TRADITION WHICH DATES FROM BEGINNINGS OF THE REPUBLIC.

3. ROMULO SAID GOP'S CALL FOR RENEGOTIATION OF U.S. BASES AGREEMENT SHOULD NOT BE MISUNDERSTOOD. GOP IS NOT DENYING ITS "AMERICAN FRIENDS AND ALLY FREE ACCESS OF ITS AIR AND NAVAL FORCES IN OUR TERRITORY. ALTHOUGH WE BELIEVE THAT UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES SHALL REMAIN IN SOUTHEAST ASIA ON TEMPORARY BASES (SIC) WE EQUALLY BELIEVE THAT THEIR PRESENCE IN THE AREA IS NECESSARY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF PEACE AND TRANQUILITY IN THE REGION DURING THESE UNCERTAIN TIMES. REGARDING THE BASES, OUR INTENTION IS CLEAR; WE WANT TO REGAIN COMPLETE SOVEREIGNTY OVER THEM." ROMULO EMPHASIZED THAT CONDITIONS PREVAILING WHEN BASES AGREEMENTS SIGNED HAVE LONG PASSED. GOP NOW HAS GREATER CAPABILITY AND SELF-CONFIDENCE AND HAS BEGUN SEARCH FOR WAYS TO BETTER SECURE ITS FRONTIERS REALIZING THAT THIS RESPONSIBILITY IS GOP'S PRIMARY CONCERN NOT OTHER NATIONS'.

4. ROMULO SPEECH GIVEN FRONT PAGE COVERAGE IN JULY 29 TIMES JOURNAL AND EXPRESS UNDER HEADLINES "COMPLETE RP CONTROL OVER US BASES PRESSED, AND RP SEEKS TOTAL RULE OVER BASES - ROMULO". PRESS ACCOUNTS OF SPEECH HIGHLIGHT FONSECRETARY'S COMMENTS ON UNACCEPTABILITY OF EXTRA-TERRITORIALITY BUT ALSO STRESS STATEMENT GOP WILL CONTINUE ALLOW US ACCESS TO BASES.

5. COMMENT: ROMULO SPEECH IS PASTICHE OF CITATIONS FROM INTERNATIONAL LAW HANDBOOKS, CLARO RECTO, MARCOS AND HIS OWN PREVIOUS SPEECHES. IT ADDS NOTHING SUBSTANTIVE TO WHAT GOP HAS SAID PREVIOUSLY AND SEEMS DESIGNED TO CONVEY IMPRESSION OF MOMENTUM ON RENEGOTIATED OFFICIAL USE

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TION ISSUE. TEXT BEING POUCHED EA/PHIL.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SPEECHES, MILITARY BASES, COLLECTIVE SECURITY AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MANILA10349
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750261-0984
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750713/aaaaalix.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <17 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECRETARY ROMULO ADDRESS ON "EXTRA-TERRITORIALITY, A THING OF THE PAST"
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, RP, US, (ROMULO, CARLOS P)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006